AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for classifying vertically partitioned medical data comprising:

categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned medical data;

determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned medical data for which the subsets of classifiers are consistent;

estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets;

approximating the overall posterior probability of the partitioned medical data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets;

determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset;

producing a combined classification based upon said overall posterior probability; and

outputting said combined classification to a display to classify said vertically partitioned medical data for maintaining medical data privacy.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.

3.   (Canceled.)

4.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the posterior

probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian

framework.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the class label

is selected for test data for which a combined posterior probability is maximum.

6.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer-

readable medium storing instructions executable by a computer for classifying partitioned

medical data, in a method comprising:

    categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned medical data;

    determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned medical data for which the

subsets of classifiers are consistent;

    estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets;

    approximating the overall posterior probability of the partitioned medical data based upon

the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets;

    determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers

in a classifier subset;

    producing a combined classification based upon said overall posterior probability; and

    outputting said combined classification to a display to classify said vertically partitioned

medical data for maintaining medical data privacy.

7.   (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising a computer-readable

medium storing computer software code means instructions executable by a computer for

classifying partitioned data comprising:

computer software code means for categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned

data;

computer software code means for determining class labels for a data pattern of the

partitioned data for which the classifier subsets are consistent;

computer software code means for estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of

consistent classifier subsets;

computer software code means for approximating the overall posterior probability of the

partitioned data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier

subsets;

computer software code means for determining the mutual consistency of each classifier

with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset;

computer software code means for producing a combined classification based upon said

overall posterior probability; and

computer software code means for outputting to a display said combined classification to

classify said vertically partitioned data.

8.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6,

further comprising using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to

other classifiers.

9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.

11.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, wherein the class label is selected for test data for which a combined posterior probability is maximum.

12.   (Previously Presented) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising computer software code means for using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.

13.   (Canceled).

14.   (Previously Presented) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.

15.   (Previously Presented) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the class label is selected for test data for which a combined posterior probability is maximum.